Volleyball friends, coaches remember life of Krieg

SoCal native died Saturday in Shasta County

By GLENN CRAVENS
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Gabrielle Houston-Neville remembers receiving the first email from Trevor Krieg about four years ago. Krieg had hopes of landing a volleyball coaching gig in Santa Cruz County and was hoping Houston-Neville could help out.

The coach welcomed Krieg to Mount Madonna, where he made an impact right away.

It's Krieg's interaction with the players and enthusiasm that will be missed, several coaches said this past weekend.

Krieg, a volleyball coach who led teams at several Santa Cruz County schools, died early Saturday morning after an accident on a houseboat.

The 22-year-old Krieg coached volleyball at Mount Madonna and Scotts Valley high schools and was an assistant at Cabrillo College. He also was a coach at Main Beach Volleyball Club.

"He was like a real brother to me," said Houston-Neville, currently the Cabrillo College women's volleyball coach. "I'm going to miss talking to him and talking volleyball and strategies."

Krieg died at Lake Shasta just north of Redding in Shasta County. According to the Shasta County Sheriff's Office, Krieg was jumping from one houseboat rooftop to another houseboat rooftop when he slipped, hit his head on one of the boats and fell into the water.

He was rescued out of the water but was unconscious, according to deputies. He was taken to a nearby hospital where he was later pronounced dead.

The cause of death was drowning, according to sheriff's deputies.

Krieg came to Santa Cruz County four years ago and started coaching in several locations, including Mount Madonna at the summit.

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Krieg

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A Southern California native, Krieg played volleyball at Saugus High and was an all-leaguer.

He recently helped guide Mount Madonna's girls team to a CCS Division V semifinal appearance.

"He was confident and charismatic, and I knew he'd be a great coach," said Houston-Neville.

A friend of Krieg told coach Houston-Neville the sad news early Saturday morning at a volleyball tournament.

Jan Purman, who helped create Main Beach Volleyball, posted a statement on the team's website early Saturday about the dedication Krieg had for the sport.

"He was loved and adored by all who had the pleasure of knowing him," Purman said.

Houston-Neville remembered one of Krieg's first practices at Mount Madonna, and the coach interacted with the student-athletes almost immediately, leading drills and motivating the players.

"It was as if he had the best, best in you, and he brought the best out in every kid," she said. "He'd get anyone to dig out a ball or fly across the floor."

Mount Madonna boys volleyball coach P.K. McDonald said Krieg's energy and dedication will be missed.

"He was 100 percent dedicated to his team and had 100 percent confidence in their abilities, and he was willing to put in how much ever time it would take," McDonald said. "He wasn't going to settle for mediocrity."

McDonald said there were times after their teams played that they'd meet to talk about strategies and how both sides could improve.

He also remembers Krieg's enthusiasm.

"It was that defensive intensity of never giving up, no matter how tough the situation," McDonald said. "I never saw his teams quit, no matter who it was against. They played the same way, up five or down five. He taught them a lot about being dedicated, and he led by example."

A memorial service is scheduled at 10 a.m. June 10 at Rio Del Mar State Beach.